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BEASLEY, CLAGGETT GENEALOGY

by

Johnson Tucker Beasley

Photo-offset copy of original typescript  
Newberry Library  
Chicago, Illinois  
1971

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# Why a genealogy or "Family Tree"

For no valid reason, I have spent considerable time in an effort to secure information on my forebearers. This matter of seeking and compiling "Family Trees" has developed into a lucrative industry, by individuals who garner a comfortable livelihood from work of this nature.

Records are searched in Town Halls, County Court Houses, townships in cemeteries, etc., and if one wishes to spend the money, a fairly accurate history may be obtained of most any family.

Since my interest is one mainly of curiosity, insufficient to warrant the outlay of much cash for such a search, the little information which follows, only represents time expended, and has been obtained from sources easily available even though incomplete.

When it is all finished, I am pessimistic enough to believe it does not mean a thing. "Blueblood" families disintegrate, while children of the most obscure origin rise to great heights in all walks of life. To me genealogy is one of the many unpredictable phases of life which has not been fathomed by man or science.

The younger generation may take this humble start, add to it through the ages, and it may become an interesting document in the years to come.

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## BEASLEY

The Beasley line is faint and indefinite, presumably of English Irish derivation. Apparently they were legion, as we find traces of them in all sections of the East and South. During my travels I have talked with many Beasleys in Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and Arkansas. The majority of them know little more of their ancestors than I do. However almost without exception I was told that their family came from Virginia, and probably emigrated west via the Daniel Boone trail from Virginia to Kentucky and on through the West.

In searching the Genealogy files of the Newberry Library, Chicago, reputed to be the most complete in the country. The earliest mention of the family is found in "The Pioneers of Mass." by C. H. Pope, who records that one, James Brown, of Salem Mass., died in 1673, and willed, with others, a share in his estate to his daughter Sarah Beasley.

There are also records of the family in Connecticut: Harvey Bancroft, born in East Windsor, Conn., May 31, 1812. A son of Bancroft. Harvey Daniel, married Elizabeth Marion Beasley, a daughter of John and Laura Clark Beasley, of Ellington, Conn. Mary Marshall, of Enfield, Conn., married Dwight Beasley of Enfield, Conn., in 1825.





There are many records on the Beasleys in the states of North and South Carolina. Several volumes mention the Beasley family participating in the Civil War from those States.

Quite a few Beasleys were born in Ohio in the early days. One item of interest concerns Mary Cornelia McVey, born May 12, 1840, being married to William Alfred Beasley, at North Liberty, Ohio, May 12, 1863. Later they moved to Peoria, Ill., where three children were born. One, a son became Superintendent of Schools in Peoria.

Probably the best and most accurate information I secured is from the records of Spotsylvania County, Va., which is adjacent to Culpepper county, Va., where my father was born. No doubt we are of the same tribe of Beasleys.

It appears that these Beasleys may have been some of the leading citizens although my deductions are based entirely on the numerous deeds recorded in the County Court House, not only of land, but other goods and chattels, not to mention slaves.

The earliest record here is in 1759, when John Beasley of the Caroline Co., sold 100 acres of land to Charles Beasley. On May 5, 1760, Charles and his wife Susanna sold 100 acres to Charles Curtis for 35 shillings. Charles Beasley, it seems, was active in buying and selling farms, and in the next 25 years many similar transactions are noted in the record. The sons are also mentioned Charles Beasley, Jr., and Henry Beasley.

Ephraim Beasley first appears in the record April 6, 1761, as an overseer on the estate of Beverly Stander. In 1763 he began buying land, and many transactions appear under his name, such as buying and selling farms, negro slaves, and tobacco. Evidently Ephraim was the most affluent Beasley in this section.

Little is known of my immediate Beasley family but no doubt more information is available in the records of Culpepper County, Va. Grandfather Beasley was a carpenter and farmer, and served with the famous regiment of Col. Mosby in the Civil War. Several books have been printed on Col. Mosby and his "guerilla band" who were feared and respected by the Northern Armies. The Beasley family home was located at Brandy Station, Va. Four sons, James, Luther S., Joseph C., and Samuel, emigrated to Lexington, Mass., around --- 1880., also one daughter Mollie (Strothers)

#### CLAGGETT

The records indicate that the Claggetts are of Norman stock who came with William the Conqueror into England. They settled in Houghton, England, and later moved into Kent.

Robert Claggett was born in 1490, in Mailing, Kent. A son Richard, born in 1525, was three times Mayor of Canterbury, England. George, a son of Richard, and his son Edward B. were imprisoned in the Tower of London. (I have been in jail two or three times so that should make me even with Edward B.) To Edward, a son was born in





1609, Nicholas B., who in turn had a son Nicholas who became the Archbishop of Sudbury in 1693.

Nicholas Jr., son of Nicholas, and grandson of Edward, became Bishop of St. Davids in Wales, and later Bishop of Exeter.

Captain Thomas Claggett, another son of Edward, was in the king's army and came to America in 1690, with a grant of land directly from the King of England. He first settled on Leonard's Creek, Calvert Co., Md., and later moved to Upper Marlboro, where his original estate is now occupied by Harold (Hal) Claggett. The estate has been in the family continuously for more than 256 years. (See Baltimore Sun dated July 20, 1939)

Richard, son of Thomas, was ordained a Bishop of the Church of England in 1847, and on his return to America, was rector of Christ Church parish in Calvert Co., and also of William and Mary parish in Charles Co., Md.

Thomas John, son of Richard, graduated from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) in 1764. On May 31, 1792 he was consecrated in Christ Church, New York City, as the First Episcopal Bishop in Maryland, and the First Bishop to be consecrated in America. Previously Bishops had been required to make the journey to London for this consecration ceremony.

Bishop Thomas John died August 2, 1816, and was buried in Upper Marlboro. In 1898, the Bishops of the Episcopal church, in conference at Washington, D. C., ordered that his ashes and those of his wife, be reinterred beneath the chancel of the Washington Episcopal Cathedral, on Mt. St. Alban in Washington.

John was the fourth son of Captain Thomas, and his son, Charles, moved to Loudon Co., soon after the Revolutionary War. Before leaving Maryland in 1784, he deeded an acre of land for a Catholic Church, and the balance of his estate "Albany", 200 acres, to Thomas Belt. He died in 1791. (See copy of will in Loudon Co. courthouse, Virginia, dated Feb. 21, 1791) The will of Charles Claggett mentions the farm, 6 negroes (5 men and 1 wench) 4 horses, 7 cows, and 11 hogs.

Thomas, son of Charles, died 1814, Woodford Co., Kentucky, owner of 6 slaves, 4 horses, one bull and cow, 2 cows with calf, 20 head of cattle, 20 sheep, and 30 hogs.

Loudon Co., Va. is adjacent to Culpepper Co., where my mother was born, and in all probability we are close to the Charles Claggett line. I have no records of our direct Claggett line, but I do know that they lived in the vicinity of Culpepper Court House, Manassas, Fairfax, and Warrenton, Va.

Sanford B. Claggett was in Lexington, Illinois, when the town was incorporated in 1855, and at the first election for Township Trustee, he received 17 votes, but was not elected as far as I can discover. For many years he operated a General Store, Bank, Elevator, and Livery Barn there. His two sons Bernard J. and William B. were partners in the business. Both had families, Bernard had 2 children

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Ralph, who now lives in Los Angeles, and a daughter. William H. has a son, S. R. Claggett, Manager of the Belmont Theater, Chicago, Illinois. He also has a daughter, Ella, married to S. R. Van Dyke. They have two daughters Bernice and Jessie (Bunce) in Jackson, Mich. and a son Carl, in Chicago. Still another daughter married L. B. Strayer and their two daughters are living. Carrie (Hatcher) lives in Springfield, Illinois.

Thomas and Frank Claggett, moved to Lexington from Va., but I think that both of these families are practically extinct. A son of Frank Claggett Jr. is Superintendent of Schools at El Paso, Illinois.

I am not sure that any of the Claggetts were in the Civil War, but the Claggett homestead is in Virginia near the site of the Battle of Bull Run. I have heard my grandmother tell of having watched the battle from the back porch, and Uncle Tucker tells me his father carried him on horseback, to the scene of the battle after it was over, and that the sight of row on row of wounded and dying was never erased from his memory.

My grandfather, James A. Claggett was a plantation and slave owner in Virginia, and accustomed to the luxuries and ease of living common to that station in life. I can recall that grandmother had a much better than average education. At the close of the Civil War general chaotic conditions prevailed in all the Southern States and on Christmas Day 1866, the Claggett family of mother, father, and four children arrived in Lexington. Grandfather bought a sizeable farm which was operated by him and his sons. It is now owned by the widow of my uncle Tucker.

I have some happy memories of my grandmother Claggett. When Grandfather died, we moved into her home, and she retained three rooms for herself. I was the oldest grandchild, seemingly a favorite, and was permitted in her part of the house, when others were not. She had quite a reputation as a "rebel". On Memorial Day, when the town would celebrate, she would close her shutters and not even venture out of the house. I have seen her walk out of church services when the minister would start to eulogize Lincoln. She was a "hard shell" Baptist and their belief is in pre-destination and fore ordination. In later years she did not attend church regularly but was frequently visited by five protestant ministers and a Catholic priest. A visit from the clergy quickly brought on an argument over the interpretation of the Bible and verses and chapters were cited as proof, of course she usually won. From these early Bible discussions, I think that she had something, at least I am convinced that our days on earth are numbered, and that we depart from this terrestrial sphere when our "number" is up.

I cannot refrain, in passing, to remark that after finding the number of Claggetts who were in the ministry, I now know why my good brother Felix M. is such a good orator, and I also want to go on record for the benefit of posterity that he has been a wonderful brother when needed a brother and a friend.

#### Grandparents

Name	Birth	Death
James A. Claggett	1824	1886





Name	Birth	Death
James A. Claggett married Catherine Johnson	1815	1900

Children		
*M. Johnson	1846	1873
*James W.	1851	1915
*Netella (Beasley)	Oct. 1, 1855	23, 1915 Jan.
*R. Tucker	1859	1927

M. Johnson never married. James W. was married to Melissa Horney and two of the children, Amy and Elmer T are living as residents of Lexington. R. Tucker married Minnie Biggs and there are no children. Mrs. Claggett now resides in Lexington, and is very active for her 80 and more years. Netella married my father Luther S. Beasley. I might mention in passing that the Beasleys and Claggetts are inter-related; it is my recollection that Grandmother Beasley's maiden name was Claggett also.

Name	Birth	Death
Thomas Beasley	?	about 1897 Va.
*Ann E Beasley	Mar. 17 1855	Jan. 24, 1898

Children		
Julia Beasley Yowell		deceased
Has one son of my acquaintance Andrew J. Yowell, 819 "F" St., Sparrows Point, Md.		
Wm. Beasley		deceased
*James	1857	1900
*Luther S.	1859	1925
*Mollie (Struthers)	?	?
*Samuel	1867	1914
*Joseph C.	1869	1945
Buried in Bloomington, Ill.		
Elisha		deceased
Fanny (Walling)		Washington D.C.
Gilbert		deceased
Gerie A. (Rector) (RFD #1)		Vienna, Va.

James Beasley left no children, nor did Uncle Sam. Aunt Mollie Struthers had a large family but I am not familiar with their whereabouts. Aunt Fanny Walling has some sons living, I believe in Los Angeles.

Uncle Joe Beasley married Edna Smith, October 3, 1888. She was born in ~~Wix2xx~~ Fairview Mo., July 8, 1871. They had 13 children as follows:

	Birth
Blanche (Shamblin), Hillsboro, Ind.	Nov. 20, 1889
Maude (Pierce) Outbeck. Mont.	Nov. 4, 1891
Anna (Carr) Hammond, Ind.	Aug. 14, 1895
Netta (Wick) Lexington	Nov. 21, 1896
Clyde Deceased	1897
Grace (Gauge) Hammond, Ind.	July 15, 1899
Thomas	Sept. 29, 1905
Frank	Mar. 4, 1908
Hadley	Oct. 27, 1911
Ivelyn (Peden)	Jan. 27, 1915
Johnnie	Mar. 20, 1930



Two children died in infancy. Uncle Joe married the second time and has another daughter living in Bloomington. What a man!

Luther S. Beasley and Metella Claggett were married in Lexington, Illinois, August 4, 1881. Seven children were born of this marriage as follows:

	Birth	Death
Johnson Tucker Beasley	2476 E. 75th. St., Chicago, Ill. Feb. 13, 1893	
Elizabeth Bremser (wife) (married Apr. 18, 1913 - Chicago)		

Miss Bremser was born in Germany, migrated with her parents to the USA when about four years of age. The Bremser family is definitely German, and lived near Frankfort on the Main.

Children	Birth	Death
*Robert Johnson	Feb. 9, 1914	Feb 13 1914
Twins:		
Jane	May 31, 1917	
Ruth	" " "	1919

Jane married Staff Sergeant A. E. Budden, June, 1944. Budden served with the U.S. Army in building the Alaskan Highway, and saw active service in Germany with the 106th. Division of the 16th. Army.

Betty	July 3, 1920
Annabeth	July 16, 1925

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Beulah Beasley (Lexington, Ill.) Sept 25, 1884  
 Zachary T. Garrett (husband) Lexington Apr. 2, 1908 - date of marriage.

Children	
Vnacelle Irene	June 14, 1913
Frank B. Waters (husband) married July 12, 1942	
Diane Adelle (only child)	Oct. 26, 1944

Frank Waters also served in the Armed Forces in the 2nd. World War.

Zylpha Louise	Jan. 16, 1916
R. W. Atkins (husband - married June 16, 1940)	
Marjorie Louise (only child)	Jan 19, 1943

R. W. Atkins also served in the Armed Forces in the 2nd. World War.

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Frances Folsom Beasley (Crawfordsville, Ind.)	
	Sept. 29, 1886
Wm. Grimes (husband - married Feb. 14, 1903)	
Wm. Louis Grimes (child above couple)	Aug. 7, 1903
Metella Grimes (child above couple)	June 25, 1913

Wm. Louis Grimes (Crawfordsville Ind.)	
Edith Louise McKee (wife - married June 6, 1936)	
Nancy Ruth (child above couple)	Mar. 9, 1938
Margaret Metella (child above couple)	Dec. 6, 1941
Wm. Melvin (child above couple)	Jan. 15, 1944

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### Conclusion

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Birth

Death

Netella Grimes, (Springfield, Ill.)

Mc Clernand Butler (husband - married June 5, 1937)

Susan Elizabeth (only child above couple) Oct. 20, 1941

Lt. Col. Mc Clernand Butler was regimental Commander of the 394 Infantry, 99th. Division, U.S. Army, and saw many months of active service in France, Belgium, and Germany.

Guy Claggett Beasley (15417 Rutherford, Detroit Mich.) June 21, 1889

Olga Bederson (wife - married August 15, 1912)  
no children.  
married:

Ruth Beasley (Lexington, Ills.) Oct. 17, 1891

Ray H. Ricketts ( " " ) (husband-  
married April 9, 1913)

Raymond Harold (child above couple) Aug. 30, 1915

Edwin Felix (child above couple) Nov. 18, 1916

Myron Keith (child above couple) July 4, 1924 July 22 1941

Carol Louise Nov. 8, 1925

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Raymond Harold (see above)

Mary Ruth Phipps (wife)

Raymond Elaine (child above couple) Mar. 1, 1943

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Edwin Felix (see above)

Charlotte Jackson (wife - married July 3, 1938)

Catherine Boyland Oct. 7, 1943

Edwin served his country somewhere in the Pacific in our War with Japan.

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Myron Keith (see above)

July 4, 1924

Myron served with honor in our war with Germany, and was accidentally drowned after peace had been declared. His death occurred in Austria. Due to his ability to speak German, he received many important assignments. He was also on e of the platoon that served as Guard for the King and Queen of Belgium, who had been in the custody of the German Gestapo.

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Felix Mathias Beasley (14855 Tracy St.,

Detroit, Mich.) Aug. 21, 1893

Nancy Elizabeth Evans (wife - married Sept. 3, 1937)

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Katherine Beasley

Mar. 8, 1900

Lyle Murphy (husband - married Aug. 24, 1916)

Earl James Nocton Mar. 9, 1941

NOTE: Persons names marked \* buried in Lexington cemetery















